Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Bird James Patterson was born on July 1, 1904, to Waitman T. and Cecilia (Gessellman) Patterson in Atwood, Kansas, the oldest of five children; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Bird married Nellie Marie Letellier on December 12, 1925, and to this union three children were born: Gene, Jerry, and Marilyn—Bird has 18 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, and 17 great-great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, As a young man, Bird sold farm machinery in Kansas, moved to Grand Junction, Colorado, and then to Norris, South Dakota, where he started farming. In 1944, the family moved to Kadoka, South Dakota, where Bird started Patterson Supply as a hardware store, selling farm equipment and parts. The impliment dealership became the love of his life. Bird sold over 100 Allis Chalmers Gleaner Combines during his years in business.

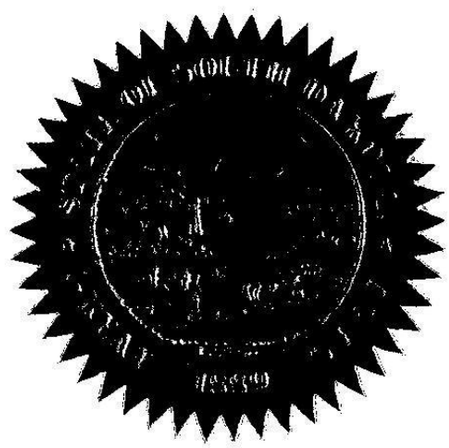
Whereas, In April 2004, Bird moved to the Kadoka Care Center—up until that time, Bird drove daily to pick up his mail and have coffee twice a day at Discount Fuel; and,

Whereas, Bird will observe his 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him at an open house to celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 1, 2004, as

BIRD JAMES PATTERSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State